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Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 H-01 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IO-13
DHA-02 /077 W
----------081341Z 071699 /53
R 081247Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7026
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

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CAPE TOW ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SF, PINT, SHUM, PFOR
SUBJECT: TRANSKEI CITIZENSHIP

REF: PRETORIA 0296, DURBAN 556 (76) (NOTAL) AND PREVIOUS

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT MARCH EDITION OF WEST
RAND ADMINISTRATION BOARD NEWSLETTER, NOT YET RECEIVED
BY EMBASSY, SAYS BANTU AFFAIRS CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF
JOHANNESBURGH, F.B. DU RANDT, HAS "CLARIFIED" TRANSKEI
CITIZENSHIP ISSUE. DU RANDT INTERATES NORMAL CRITERIA
OF BEING BORN IN TRANSKEI AND STATES FURTHER THAT
"A PERSON BORN OUTSIDE THE TRANSKEI, (FOR EXAMPLE
IN SOWETO), IS ALSO A TRANSKEI CITIZEN IF HIS FATHER
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WAS A CITIZEN OF TRANSKEI OR (IN THE CASE OF A CHILD
BORN OUR OF WEDLOCK--BY CUSTOM OR OTHERWISE) IF HIS
MOTHER WAS A CITIZEN OF TRANSKEI..IN ADDITION VERY
SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZEN--WHO IS NOT A CITIZEN OF A
HOMELAND--WHO SPEAKS XHOSA OR SOTHO OR IS RELATED
TO SUCH
PERSON OR WHO HAS IDENTIFIED HIMSELN WITH

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THAT PART OF THE POPULATION OR IS CULTURALLY OR OTHERWISE ASSOCIATED WITH UNY PART OF SUCH POPULATION IS ALSO A TRANSKEI CITIZEN. THESE CATEGORIES COULD POSSIBLY INCLUDE A CITIZEN OF THE CISKEI BUT THEN, OBVIOUSLY, THE ONUS IS ON SUCH A PERSON TO PROVE THAT HE IS IN FACT NOT A CITIZEN OF THE TRANSKEI BUT OF THE CISKEI.5

2. COMMENT: DU RANDT'S DESCRIPTION IS IN KEEPING WITH SAG DEFINITION OF CITIZEN AS PUT FORWARD IN STATUS OF TRANSKEI ACT AND IN WAY SAG IS APPLYING DEFINITION (PRETORIA 0296). BY EMPHASIZING BROAD CATEGORY OF ANYONE WHO IDENTIFIES HIMSELF OR IS "CULTURALLY OR OTHERWISE ASSOCIATED WITH" THE TRANSKEI, SAG CAN MAKE CITIZENSHIP DECISIONS ARBITRARILY, WHICH SEEMS TO BE CASE IN PRACTICE. CRITERIA IS NO LONGER TRIBE OR LANGUAGE PER SE.

3. PUTTING EMPHASIS ON ASSOCIATION WITH HOMELAND AND ONUS TO PROVE OTHERWISE ON INDIVI DUAL
MAY WELL O ATTEMPT TO STEM MINORITIES PROBLEM THAT HAS CROPPED UP. LARGE ZULU AND SOTHO SPEAKING MINORITIES IN TRANSKEI HAVE SPOKEN OUT IN PAST OVER THEIR INCLUSION THEREIN. SOTHO HAVE EVEN THREATENED TO SECEDE (DURBAN TRANSMITTAL SLIP, OCT. 28, 1976) AND SAG COULD BE IN FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS OVER ISSUE M DU RANDT'S INCLUSION OF SOTHO SPEAKERS OUTSIDE TRANSKEI AS CITIZENS MAY SEEM ODD
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AT FIRST BUT MAY BE AN ATTEMPT TO ANTICIPATE MINORITIES PROBLEM ELSEWHERE. SOTHO SPEAKERS ARE ONE OF MOST GEOGRAPHICALLY FRAGMENTED GROUPS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND BESIDES OWN HOMELANDS OF BASOTHO QWAQWA (SOUTH SOTHO) AND LEBOWA (NORTH SOTHO) THEY HAVE A LARGE MINORITY IN BOPHUTHATSWANA WHICH, LIKE THOSE IN TRANSKEI, OUTNUMBER TOTAL RESIDENT IN OASOTHO QWAQWA. ALTHOUGH DU RANDT'S STATEMENT BRINGS GREATER CLARITY TO SAG'S INTENTIONS ON CITIZENSHIP, IT ALSO BRINGS TO LIGHT AN INHERENT CONTRADICTION IN IMPLEMENTATION OF HOMELAND POLICY. HOMELANDS ARE BASED ON THEORY THAT EACH GZNATIONAL GROUP SHOULD HAVE "SELF-DETERMINATION" WITHIN ITS OWN AREA. YET, SAG IS NOW ASSIGNING, EN MASSE, "NATIONALS" OF ONE GROUP TO CITIZENSHIP IN OTHER AREAS. BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, CITIZENSHIP LAW, TRANSKEI
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Errors: N/A
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Reference: 77 PRETORIA 296, 77 DURBAN 556
Retention: 0
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SAS ID: 3176883
Secure: OPEN
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Subject: TRANSKEI CITIZENSHIP
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, PFOR, SF
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